



IMMACULATE HEART^{OF}MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR JUNE 24, 2018

Dear friends in the Lord,

As I told our United States Senators, my Representative and the White House when I contacted them last week: A letter like this should not have to be written. That the separation of immigrant children from their parents is countenanced, much less embraced, by anyone in our nation demonstrates how far we have fallen in common decency and respect for the human person.

History will judge leaders who speak of immigrants today as an “infestation,” as history has judged those who used precisely the same language to demonize and scapegoat others during the last century. But it is not history’s judgment that concerns me primarily as a pastor; it is another Judgment. And the terms of that Judgment have been laid out very clearly: “‘Lord, when did we see you a stranger and not welcome you?’ ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me. And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life’” (Matthew 25).

In the spirit of Dr. King’s assertion that “all that needs to happen for evil to prevail is for the good to do nothing,” I offer you 5 ways that you can help stop family separation:

Pray: You can find a prayer for migrant children at justiceforimmigrants.org.

Speak Up: Contact your senators and representative directly by phone to voice your concern. You can find the number for your representative at www.house.gov/representatives and your senators at www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.

Take Action: Contact Catholic Charities Atlanta at catholiccharitiesatlanta.org to learn about their material/volunteer needs, consider fostering an unaccompanied child, or join the Share the Journey global solidarity campaign at www.sharejourney.org.

Give to Catholic Charities USA at app.mobilecause.com/form/pzofBg to support agencies that are helping families and children impacted by the crisis. (100% of your donation will go to the 21 Catholic Charities agencies assisting unaccompanied children)

Learn More: To learn more about Family Separation, visit the Justice For Immigrants Family Separation webpage at justiceforimmigrants.org/what-we-are-working-on/immigrant-detention/family-separation to review backgrounders, educational material and a webinar.

Your brother in Christ’s word and work,